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15 March 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: PROJECT DIRECTOR

THRU : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Planning Tasks

1. This is to inform you of the status of action on the subjects outlined in your memorandum of 23 February 1956, same subject. In your paragraph 2 (Descriptions and Schedules of Operational Instructions and Reports) the Reports Manual which we prepared and tested during our recent visit to the site seemed to be satisfactory in almost every respect. With the minor modifications that we made at Watertown I believe it is acceptable for use in Operations. Further test will be accomplished during our continuing communications exercises as well as our "wet missions" which we will be running early in April prior to the USCM. It appears that the reporting workload is not excessive either for this Headquarters or for the Detachment. The communications load seems to be acceptable to the communicators and not unduly excessive. We repeatedly inquired as to whether or not the systems transmitted sufficient information both ways to insure proper understanding. I believe the system is completely acceptable in its present form.

2. Concerning the second item, SOP for Headquarters Operations Center. We have not as yet prepared a paper which outlines the daily schedule of activities in detail. We have, however, prepared certain materials which we use to indicate such activities. These are somewhat unwieldy, however, for presentation in a report such as this. I can outline briefly how we expect the activities to proceed. The Operations Center will initially be staffed for approximately 16-hour a day operations. This is necessary because of the time differential between Washington and U. K. Operations activities are dictated by the weather and therefore are initiated upon receipt of a favorable weather forecast. With the favorable weather forecast for an area, intelligence and operations personnel collaborate to come up with a proposed mission plan. This proposed mission plan is presented for consideration by the Operations Officer. Assuming a continuance of the favorable forecast, and approval of the proposed mission, the system of reports indicated in the above paragraph should give you a good idea of the activities as they proceed thereafter. The above assumes, of course, participation in the briefing, planning, and approval by the Project Command Section.

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3. Concerning flight procedure and emergency procedures in European theater. I believe activities in this regard are indicated in my memorandum to you of 2 March 1956 concerning our proposed trip to Europe.

25X1 4. Concerning the Air Ground Communications Code. We have had for some time a set of sample messages for use in the digital coding communications system. This matter was discussed with [redacted] people. They are coming up with "canned" messages that they would like to have. It will be necessary later to consolidate and approve their and our messages. It would appear at this time that the 999 available combinations will be considerably in excess to our requirements. I think this is real good in that such a system should be kept as simple as possible and should never be permitted to become a chore in the cockpit.

5. Arrangement of Navigation Aids in the Cockpit. This was covered in my memorandum dated 13 March, to you on this subject.

6. I would like to comment generally on planning tasks in preparation for forthcoming operations. I think we will be ready to operate on schedule. We are encountering several obstacles. Among these are completion of physical aspects of the Operations Center and procurement of critically needed Operations Staff personnel.

I have submitted a tentative statement of personnel requirements for the Operations Staff. The outline as submitted calls for a staff for 24-hour a day, 7-day a week operations. While all these personnel are not required as of right now, they will be required in the very near future. Based on past experience in procurement of personnel, I don't think it is too early to start getting people on board if they are needed by December. This outline has previously been submitted without justification, primarily to indicate the scope of the personnel required. We are working now and our intent is to submit justification of individual spaces on the T/O prior to our departure to Europe. This T/O should be approved immediately. Even though we do not man 100% against the T/O, it would give us the opportunity to pick up individuals as they become available from time to time thereby relieving us from the position of having to recruit a rather extensive number of people in one fell swoop when we start 3 base operations. In other words, approval of the full T/O now will permit us to be more selective in our acceptance of personnel. 57

25X1 [redacted]  
Colonel, USAF  
Director of Operations

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